

## AESOP Thematic Group report 2025

Faculty of  
Planning Building Environment  
Institute of  
Urban and Regional Planning

Chair of  
Planning Theory and  
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Berlin, 5.02.2026

### **Report concerning the activities of the AESOP Planning/Conflict thematic group in 2025 *Contested urban policy: breeding concrete utopias***

#### **The AESOP Planning/Conflict thematic group has conducted two activities in 2025:**

##### **AESOP 2025 Congress Planning/Conflict thematic group special session**

At the AESOP Annual Congress 2025 in Istanbul, July 7th – July 11th 2025, a special session titled *Contested Istanbul: Urban development and planning conflicts in Turkey's 'aspiring global city'* has been organized by Enrico Gualini and Esin Özdemir in association with the AESOP TG Planning/Conflict, with contributions by: Deniz Ay, Yıldız Erdoğan, Melis Oğuz Çevik, Adile Avar and Burcu Değerli Çiftçi.

##### **AESOP Planning/Conflict thematic group conference**

The AESOP Planning/Conflict thematic group conference titled *Contested urban policy: breeding concrete utopias* was held in Berlin between 30 September and 2 October 2025 at the Institute of Urban and Regional Planning, Building A.

Information on the call and on the program is attached and is also available online at:

<https://www.tu.berlin/en/planningtheory/research-publications>

The conference was initiated, conceived and organized at TU Berlin by Enrico Gualini and supported by a scientific committee composed of:

- Francesco Campagnari, EHESS Paris

- Enrico Gualini, Technische Universität Berlin
- Verena Lenna, Vrije Universiteit Brussels
- Alessandra Manganelli, Universitat de Barcelona
- Miguel A. Martinez, Uppsala Universitet
- Stijn Oosterlynk, Universiteit Antwerpen
- Carolina Pacchi, Politecnico di Milano
- Nanke Verloo, Universiteit van Amsterdam

The conference was based on an open call for papers widely publicized through academic and non-academic channels, resulting in 75 proposal submissions. Of these, 60 were accepted for inclusion in the program. Ultimately, the conference was attended by 65 registered participants, backed by a local team of four.

— The conference program ultimately included 48 papers, organized in 8 parallel sessions, with members of the scientific committee serving as discussants/moderators. The program also included two keynote speeches by Miguel A. Martinez (Uppsala Universitet) and Nanke Verloo (Universiteit van Amsterdam) as well as a final round table session with the participation of the members of the scientific committee.

Two post-conference activities were organized :

- on September 30, a field trip and visit to the cooperative development Haus der Statistik in Berlin-Mitte and panel discussion titled *Contested urban policy: What spaces for concrete utopias? Critical reflections from the Berlin experience* moderated by Enrico Gualini with the participation of Konrad Braun (ZKB eG, Haus der Statistik), Rebecca Wall (Urbane Praxis e.V.) and Enrico Schönberg (ZusammenStelle Rathausblock);
- on October 1, a field trip and visit to the community center ZK/U - Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik in Berlin-Moabit, moderated by Stefan Koderisch (ZK/U).

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